

The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2004

Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

Present:

Ballantyne, Todd
Blanchard, Richard
Gaskill, Jim (Chair)
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)
Perkins, Ernie
Potts, Dan
Proctor, Travis
Sanslow, Terry
Sorensen, Ryan (Secretary)
Townsend, Brad

Old Business

2004 Chukar/Guzzler Study Status

The study is going well. Chukar visits are increasing due to the hot temperatures of Summer. Guzzler activity has been monitored by motion sensor cameras, as well as dropping counts. Several birds have been trapped and banded. These banded birds will be monitored throughout the study.

Federal "Open Fields" Initiative

There was discussion about the pending federal legislation known as the "Open Fields" Initiative. If passed, the "Open Fields" will provide funds to states for access programs. The committee supports this initiative and Chairman Jim Gaskill has submitted a letter to Utah senators and representatives to support the pending "Open Fields" legislation. Jim has not received any response from the letter. He will notify the committee if any correspondence takes place.

2005-2008 Upland Game Proclamation Discussion

The current Upland Game Proclamation is being reviewed for suggestions on enhancing or modifying the existing content. Suggestions will be discussed in future Upland Advisory Committee meetings.

Invitation to Utah Upland Game Organizations

The Upland Advisory Committee extends an invitation to all upland game organizations to attend the monthly meetings.

Pheasants Forever Habitat Specialist Position Update

There has been no progress since last month. The previous funding and deployment arrangements for this project have changed dramatically from original discussions between DWR, NRCS and Pheasants Forever. NRCS has opted to solicit requests for proposals from agencies and organizations willing to complete Farm Bill work throughout northern Utah. NRCS' request for proposals should be published shortly on the FedGrants or FedBizOps web site. However, on a somewhat related issue, the NWTF has agreed to match funding for riparian habitat work in Southern Utah.

Box Elder Water Management Project Update

There is a privately owned livestock water system within Box Elder County. There has been some discussion to compensate the owner for using this system to provide water for Utah wildlife. A cost/benefit analysis, and species data is being gathered to present to the DWR and the land owner.

Utah Chukar Foundation/BLM Guzzler Project Update

Utah Chukar Foundation members have begun guzzler maintenance in the Northern region. Over 100 volunteer hours will be logged by the end of August 2004.

New Business

Meeting Schedule for Fall

October 12, 2004
November 9, 2004

Species Management Plan for Pheasants

Draft templates have been given to Utah Pheasants Forever chapter, and writing assignments are being delegated. Richard Blanchard will provide a status report at the next Upland Advisory Committee meeting on October 12.

Hunt Forecast – Mourning Dove

Data collected during call count surveys indicate a dramatic increase in Mourning Dove breeding populations in Utah. However, hunting opportunity is difficult to determine due to unpredictable weather patterns between now and September 1. Cool temperatures and rains may result in a premature southern migration for the doves. A detailed report can be found on the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' internet site.

http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/forecasts/04_dove_pigeon_season.html

Sage-grouse/Sharp-tailed grouse Permits

As of August 10, sage-grouse permits are still available for certain areas. A limited number of sharp-tailed grouse permits are available as well. Contact your Regional Division Wildlife office for availability.

Youth Pheasant Hunt Applications

An online application form or printable applications are available on the internet at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/youthhunt.html>. Applications must be postmarked on or before September 7, 2004. This is a great opportunity to create youth interest in hunting upland game.

Wildlife Water Development Workshop

There will be a workshop held in Tempe, Arizona on November 3-4, 2004. This is sponsored by the BLM and Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Annual Helicopter Chukar Survey

The annual survey will take place on Tuesday August 17, 2004. A ten mile transect will be flown up and down canyons as observers within the helicopter will count birds as they are flushed. The data will be reviewed and a final report will be made available before the 2004 chukar season.

Upland Game on the Internet

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Future meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

Dean Mitchell deanmitchell@utah.gov
Jim Gaskill jhgaskill@weber.edu

Ryan Sorensen ryan@mybirddog.com

Respectfully submitted ...

Ryan Sorensen